



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

history of Italy Dr. Helmolt has taken upon his own shoulders, and acquitted himself as well as might be; but as Ranke has said, only a collection of provincial histories could provide a true picture of the general history of Italy.

Most of the volume deals only with events prior to the Reformation, but an exception is made in regard to the Scandinavian countries and Great Britain, which are brought down to date. The chapter on the former is by a Norwegian, Dr. Schjøth, and appears to be scholarly but dry. As the chapter on England in the German edition smacked rather of the text-book and often placed the emphasis wrongly, Dr. Helmolt was fortunate in having this part of the English edition wholly rewritten by an Englishman, Mr. H. W. C. Davis. By almost total omission of military events he has made room in 150 pages for a good brief sketch of English political history, with more than usual attention to economic and constitutional matters, and some happy, though very brief, characterizations of English men of literature.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Le Japon: Histoire et Civilisation. I. Le Japon Ancien. II. Le Japon Féodal. III. Le Japon des Tokugawa. Par le Marquis DE LA MAZELIÈRE. (Paris: Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1907. Pp. cxxxv, 569; 406; 623.)

MARQUIS DE LA MAZELIÈRE, who has already published several works on East Asiatic civilization, comes forth with the most comprehensive work ever published in French on the history and civilization of Japan. The present three volumes bring the account down to the end of the eighteenth century, while the two volumes yet to appear will complete the entire historic period to date. The author has thought it best not to make specific references in the pages, but has placed an extensive bibliography at the beginning of each section. The works therein referred to include several Japanese books in translation and many original essays on Japan written in European languages, but none of the vast amount of sources and literature in Japanese which have not been translated, and the knowledge of which is likely almost completely to eclipse the information upon which the present work is based. The author, supply though he did this limited source of information with his personal knowledge gained from travel and observation, has in the main been obliged to make heroic efforts to exhaust all that could be got through the medium of Occidental languages and to make the best of what was thus obtained. The student in the field will be compelled to admit that the marquis has succeeded in giving to the world an intelligent and fairly complete summary of what Europe knows of Japan.

The first volume is devoted to Ancient Japan (from the earliest times to the beginnings of feudalism). It opens with a long introduction, in 135 pages, treating of the origins, the peculiarities, and the inter-

relation, of Occidental and Oriental civilizations; and parallels to be found in the history of both: the decay of old civilization, invasion of barbarians, feudalism, renaissance, absolute monarchy, and revolution. This world-wide outlook and constant endeavor to find historical parallels in Japan, the rest of Asia, and Europe, form one of the characteristics of the author's treatment. This will afford stimulus and suggestiveness to many readers, but I dare think that there will be others who would value the work no less were this phase of the treatment entirely absent.

The institutional side of this volume, as in the other two volumes, is the least satisfactory, perhaps because the most poorly represented in the bibliography on which the author relied. Another difficulty which seems continually to have beset him is that of making the desirable topical discussion of such matters as religion and social life without disturbing to a great extent the historical sequence of data. Examples of errors of this kind are too numerous to be cited. Let it suffice to refer to the seriously inaccurate statements regarding the *buke* and the *kuge* (p. 236), the *han* (p. 260, II. 13), and the artisan class (p. 262). The history and art of the Nara period, as well as the relation of the so-called esoteric Buddhism to the art and court life of the next period, are far too inadequately treated.

The author shines forth on some points with the brilliancy of his insight. For example, his discriminating remarks on the ancestor-worship in China and Japan, on the characteristic traits of the Japanese woman, and on the distinction of Laoism and Taoism, are, in their main contention, quite illuminating, though not perhaps always convincing.

In regard to the second volume, also, which takes up the Feudal Japan (from the rise of feudal forces till the anarchy of the sixteenth century), it is safe to consider its institutional side the weakest, and the side relating to customs and manners the strongest. The story of the literary and moral life of the people is full of sympathy and suggestion, though the author is naturally prone to subjective explanation on those points about which he does not command sufficient data. Allowing this fundamental limitation to the merit of the work, everywhere one cannot help admiring the author's wonderful combination of love of concrete facts with taste for cogent generalization.

This latter quality is shown at its best, and, as some critics would say, even at its furthest proper limits, in the third volume. The author with all his labored argument could not expect every student to agree with him in regarding the age of Oda and Toyotomi as one of renaissance and the régime of the Tokugawa as an absolute monarchy. Nor would the parallels he finds in the history of Japan and Europe of the respective periods seem in all cases convincing. He still regards Pinto as one of the first European discoverers of Japan, and his narrative of events leading up to the policy of foreign exclusion appears not so

good as his treatment of some other matters. Political incidents and social customs are, again, as well described as could be expected, but the economic progress and institutional growth might have been better analyzed and more accurately set forth, had he applied to these fields the acumen which he displays in the departments of history requiring less skill in analysis. His description of the social life of the eighteenth century in Edo and the Tokaido is clever and full of feeling. His chapters on the arts, in this and in the second volume, are full, but lead one to think that the author has not made as extensive studies in the earlier periods of art history as in the later.

Throughout the volumes, extracts from Japanese works are copiously cited in translation. The fact that these works are mostly literary and that the translations are often faulty will show to the student of history that their use in illustrating the life of the people has its advantages and risks. In spite of this and many other things in this work to which exceptions are liable to be taken, one cannot but heartily congratulate Marquis de la Mazelière on his very useful work, and wait with interest its remaining two volumes on modern Japan.

K. ASAKAWA.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Die Päpstliche Pönitentiarie von ihrem Ursprung bis zu ihrer Umgestaltung unter Pius V. Von EMIL GÖLLER. [Bibliothek des Kgl. Preussischen Historischen Instituts in Rom. Band III.] Erster Band. *Die Päpstliche Pönitentiarie bis Eugen IV.* I. Teil. *Darstellung.* II. Teil. *Quellen.* (Rome: Loescher and Company. 1907. Pp. xiv, 278; v, 189.)

IN the later Middle Ages the papal penitentiary was one of the most important departments of the central government of the Roman church. A cardinal major penitentiary stood at its head, assisted by several minor penitentiaries and a large clerical staff, and it had its own forms and fees and rules of procedure, as well as its manuals and formularies and registers. From its formal organization in the thirteenth century until it lost its jurisdiction over the *forum externum* in 1569, the penitentiary administered the ever-increasing mass of cases in which the sole power of absolution and dispensation was reserved to the pope, and it has a claim upon the attention of historical students, not only as a branch of the papal government second only to the chancery and the camera, but also as an influence of the first importance upon the moral life of European Christendom. Strangely enough, the penitentiary is very little known, in spite of the light thrown upon particular phases of its activity by Denifle, Lea, and Lang, and there is great need for such a thorough and comprehensive study of the institution as Dr. Göller promises to give us.

The sources for the history of the penitentiary are small in bulk